

FISH HATCHERY EXPECTED TO BENEFIT XHARIEP

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The construction of a fish hatchery in Petrusburg in Letsemeng Local Municipality in the Free State will not only supplement the various local community projects in the region, but also aims to turn the Xhariep district into a fish hatchery hub.

This was proclaimed by the MEC for agriculture, Mosebenzi Zwane, at a sod-turning event by the Free State department of agriculture, which was held concurrently with the launch of Operation Hlasela, in Petrusburg last week, on August 23.

Zwane revealed that the Xhariep District Municipality had been identified as the fish hub of the province and Petrusburg has accordingly benefitted from the construction of the hatchery. A hatchery is a facility where eggs are hatched under simulated conditions and the initiative has boosted aquaculture in the area.

Aquaculture is the culture of aquatic organisms, including fish, molluscs, crustaceans and plants, either in cages within the shallow waters of the ocean or in dams or structures on land, fed by water.

“Aquaculture has been expanding rapidly across the world, and China is the largest contributor to global aquaculture production. The fishery project is designed to empower seven young people in the area, who are currently being trained. The department will continue to monitor them, from time to time, and help them in further training that might be required.

The Letsemeng Local Municipality has also helped by allocating a suitable site for the establishment of the fishery project,” said Zwane. Zwane said the department is planning to build a facility, where the fish will be processed by the end of the current year, while the entire project will be finalised in 2013.

“We expected to have the project finalised in June next year and then we will turn our focus to other areas in the province,” he said.

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